

Psychology 3703
Theories of Motivation

Spring 2021

Instructor: G. M. Diekhoff
Office: O'Donohoe 218
Phone: 940-397-4348
Email: george.diekhoff@msutexas.edu

TEXTS (optional):

Beck, Robert C. (2004). *Motivation: Theories and Principles* (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Petri, H. L., & Govern, J. M. (2004). *Motivation: Theory, Research, and Applications* (5th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

The field of motivation has been relatively dormant for about 10 years. That is not to say that motivational theories are not worth learning about, but rather, that the theories are stable at this point. What new developments there are in motivation are either microtheories that are irrelevant beyond very narrow behavioral boundaries, or have taken place in our understanding of the physiological bases of the primary drives—hunger, thirst, sex, etc. Those physiological developments are emerging so rapidly that I guess no one is willing to try to capture current thinking in a snapshot, put it in a textbook, and hope it survives as “current” for the 4-6 year lifespan of a typical textbook.

The dormancy of motivational theory is reflected in the absence of any good new textbooks on the market. Rather than ask you to purchase an old textbook, I'm making this course textbook-optional. However, those of you who would like to have some extra reading that more-or-less follows the lectures is welcome to purchase the Beck textbook listed above from any online source and read the assignments listed later in the syllabus. The Petri text is also good and I'd encourage you to read it as well if you're looking for more on the topic.

Lectures, however, will not strictly follow the organization of either the Beck or Petri text and tests will be based exclusively on material presented in class. I will provide you with fairly detailed outlines of

those lectures, but it will be extremely important to your success in the course to attend class regularly and to take notes to supplement the outlines.

COMMUNICATION: WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Although D2L will serve as the platform to provide all lectures and tests in the course, all other communication with me will be via email, not the D2L messaging or announcement systems. My email address is george.diekhoff@msutexas.edu and I will use the email addresses you have on file with MSU to communicate with you. If you do not receive an email from me that you expected to receive, check the spam folder of your email software.

LECTURES: WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

This is a synchronous online course. What that means is that I will use the Zoom platform to stream lectures online from a remote location on a fixed schedule: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 9:50 am from January 11, 2021 through April 23, 2021. You will be able to access those lectures through MSU's D2L platform. That means that if you want to hear a lecture, you'll have to log in to D2L on the days and times that we've been assigned. The lectures will not be recorded. If you wish to record lectures you will need to acquire personal software to accomplish that purpose.

LECTURE ATTENDANCE

Although I will have a list each day of which students have logged in to that day's Zoom lecture, I will not take "attendance." However, I strongly encourage you to view the lectures, because tests will cover material presented in those lectures and you are very unlikely to do well in the course if you haven't viewed the lectures.

EXAMS AND GRADING

Four noncumulative exams will be given at approximately equal intervals throughout the semester. Tentative dates, subject to change, are February 8, March 3, March 29, and April 23. Makeup exams will be given on Monday, April 26 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Each exam will test knowledge of material covered since the previous exam. Exams are not intentionally cumulative. All exams will be administered via D2L.

GRADING

Course grades will be based on accumulated point totals on the four exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points (90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 59 or lower = F). Points accumulated on the four exams will convert to a course grade as follows:

360-400 = A
320-359 = B
280-319 = C
240-279 = D
≤ 239 = F

MISSED AND MAKEUP EXAMS

Students who miss scheduled exams will be allowed to take makeup exams on Monday, April 26 (during final exam week). There will be a one letter grade penalty for exams that were missed for unexcused reasons. There is no grade penalty for exams that were missed due to excused reasons. University policy dictates three types of excused absences:

- the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner stating that the student was unable to test on the day of the test;
- the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner stating that the student's dependent child was ill on the day of the test;
- the student provides a written excuse from an official of Midwestern State University stating that the student was in attendance at a mandatory university function on the day of the test.

Funerals, employment-related absences, illnesses not requiring medical attention, job interviews, family emergencies, automobile malfunctions, court appearances, etc. do not constitute excused absences.

OFFICE HOURS

I will be available for virtual office hours by appointment. If you want to "meet" with me via teleconference, email me at george.diekhoff@msutexas.edu to arrange an appointment. At the time of your appointment, go to <https://doxy.me/DrGeorgeDiekhoff>.

Unlike Zoom, doxy.me provides a HIPAA compliant platform that ensures privacy. Be sure to use Google Chrome, Firefox or Safari as your browser or you can download the free doxy.me app for your smart phone. Once you log in, you will be in my virtual waiting room. I will be notified that you are there and will open our conversation.

DISABILITIES

Individuals requiring special accommodations according to the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the MSU Disability Support Services office.

TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS (in optional Beck text)

Introduction--Ch. 1

Primary Drives--Ch. 4, 5, 11 (284-310)

Instincts and Genetics--Ch. 3

Mechanistic Drive Theories and Optimal Level Theories—Ch. 6, 7 (178-181, 189-194), 8 (201-214), 10 (250-256), 12 (341-344)

Lewin's Field Theory--no reading

Achievement (and related) Motives--Ch. 12 (322-331, 336-341)

Cognitive Theories--Ch. 7 (194-197), 13 (362-376)

Motivational Theories from the Industrial-Organizational Psychology Tradition